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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION HEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AOS-00 AIO-07 IHR-10 LJA-12 SS-18 CIP-00
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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0309
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AMEMBASSY BOMM
AMEMBASSY CAMBODIA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY Dacca
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD (PRECEDENCE)
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI (PRECEDENCE)
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL DELHI
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MB

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FROM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING

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AMEMBASSY CAMBODIA

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AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD (PRECEDENCE)

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HOOD TO THE ROOFTOPS, GUNS IN HAND, DESPITE A NEW OUT-
BREAK OF INTRA-MUJAHEDDIN FIGHTING IN PAKHMAN PROVINCE
NORTH OF KABUL, MOST OF THAT REGION, AND OTHER AREAS
BORDERING ON THE CAPITAL, ARE BELIEVED TO BE LARGELY
IN THE HANDS OF THE MUJAHIDEEN.

3. (U) ON JULY 28 REGIME PRESIDENT KARMAL RETURNED TO
KABUL FROM MOSCOW AFTER A FIVE-WEEK STAY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA
AND THE USSR. END SUMMARY.

DRA REGIMZ MEDIA THEMES :

4. (U) AS THE DUST OF THE MID-JULY BATTLE IN THE PAKHMAN
REGION NEAR KABUL SETTLED, THE DRA REGIMZ INCREASED ITS
EFFORTS TO PROVE ITS OWN POPULARITY AND ABILITY TO AS-
SSERT ITSELF OVER ITS OPPONENTS. ON JULY 26, TEN DAYS
AFTER THE PAKHMAN FIGHTING HAD ENDED, THE PRESS CARRIED
AN OFFICIAL BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY REPORT CLAIMING THAT
GOVERNMENT FORCES HAD ROUTED THE "MERCENARIES" THERE,
THUS ENDING THE "PEOPLE'S AGONY." THE BAKHTAR STORY AS-
SERTED THAT THE REGIME'S OPPONENTS HAD VIOLATED THE
SANCTITY OF RAMADAN BY KIDNAPPING AND KILLING YOUTHS.

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CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
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CADETS, MOVED WESTWARD IN TWO GROUPS FROM PAGHMAN THROUGH THE VILLAGE OF DEK TOOT INTO THE PASHADI VALLEY. IT WAS THERE THAT THE AMBUSH REPORTED LAST WEEK IN REFTEL OCCURRED. HEAVY FIGHTING INVOLVING AN ESTIMATED 6000 AFGHAN AND PERHAPS 300 SOVIET TROOPS CONTINUED UNTIL THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 15, AND LARGE NUMBERS OF CIVILIANS WERE KILLED AND THEIR HOMES AND OTHER PROPERTY DESTROYED. THE MOST LIKELY SOUNDING ESTIMATE OF COMBATANTS KILLED - 700 HUNDRED DRA/SOVIET AND 200 MUJAHIDEEN - COMES TO US INDIRECTLY FROM A MUJAHID SOURCE. (BRIEF)

7. (C) TWO EYEWITNESS REPORTS HIGHLIGHT THE BRUTALITY OF THE PAGHMAN BATTLE AND ITS DEMORALIZING EFFECT ON THE MILITARY COJETS. A SOURCE LEARNED AFTER THE CONFLICT THAT A RELATIVE HAD BEEN KILLED IN THE FIGHT AND WENT TO PAGHMAN TO ATTEND TO FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS. THE DEAD HAN, A TEACHER IN PAGHMAN, HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY THE MUJAHIDEEN WITH ELEVEN COMPANIONS WHEN RETURNING HOME FROM A TOWN NEAR KABUL WHERE PAGHMAN FUNCTIONARIES HAVE BEEN RECEIVING THEIR PAY SINCE THE MUJAHIDEEN OCCUPIED PAGHMAN EARLIER THIS YEAR. THE TWELVE WERE SUSPECTED OF BELONGING TO THE PDPA AND WERE TAKEN TO A MOSQUE IN THE PASHADI VALLEY FOR QUESTIONING. THEY HAD MANAGED TO

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USICA WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
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PROVE THEIR POLITICAL NEUTRALITY WHEN THE MOSQUE WAS ATTACKED BY GOVERNMENT FORCES. THE MUJAHIDEEN FLED, BUT THE TWELVE MEN WERE TAKEN FROM THE MOSQUE ONE BY ONE AND SHOT BY SOVIET SOLDIERS. THEIR BODIES WERE THEN DISFIGURED, APPARENTLY BY BURNING, AND OUR SOURCE WAS FORCED TO IDENTIFY HIS RELATIVE BY EXAMINING THE SHOES HE WORE. (BRIEF)

8. (C) WE HAVE ALSO LEARNED FROM SOURCES CLOSE TO THOSE INVOLVED THAT THE MILITARY CADETS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE FIGHTING DID NOT KNOW WHAT WAS IN STORE FOR THEM AND WERE DEMORALIZED BY THEIR FIRST-COMBAT EXPERIENCE. ONE MILITARY ACADEMY CADET TOLD A RELATIVE THAT HE AND HIS FELLOW STUDENTS HAD BEEN TOLD THEY WERE GOING TO PAGHAMAN TO CONDUCT HOUSE SEARCHES. WHEN THEY ARRIVED IN THE AREA ON JULY 13, HOWEVER, THEY WERE ORDERED INTO COMBAT. MANY OF THE 400 MILITARY ACADEMY STUDENTS RESPONDED TO LOUDSPEAKER CALLS FROM THE MUJAHIDEEN TO DEFEAT, SOME OF THE REMAINDER FOUGHT, AND THE REST HID AS BEST THEY COULD. FOLLOWING THEIR RETURN TO KABUL, THE SURVIVING MILITARY CADETS STAGED A DEMONSTRATION AT THE ACADEMY TO PROTEST THEIR BEING CALLED UPON TO FIGHT BEFORE THEY WERE FULL-FLEDGED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES. ANOTHER EXCELLENT SOURCE TELLS US THAT STUDENTS FROM THE AIR FORCE AND SIGNAL CORPS SCHOOLS, AND FROM TWO OTHER TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS, ALSO WENT TO PAGHAMAN AND WERE RELUCTANT AND INEFFECTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN THE BATTLE. THIS SOURCE ADDS THAT MANY OF THE CADETS WERE POSITIONED IN FRONT OF SOVIET AND AFGHAN TROOPS IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT THEY WOULD NOT RUN AWAY AND THAT THOSE ONE TALKS
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TO DO SO CAME UNDER FIRE FROM THEIR EASTWILE COMRADES IN ARMS. (BRIEF)

9. (C) IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BATTLE OF PAGHAMAN. THE MUJAHIDEEN DID NOT SUCCEED IN DRIVING THE SOVIET TROOPS OUT OF THE HILLS TEMPORARILY. ALSO, AS A RESULT OF THE BATTLE, SOURCE HERE POINTS OUT, THE EXTENSIVE DESTRUCTION OF CIVILIAN PROPERTY EXPOSED SOME PERSONS AND ILLEGITIMATE HAS PROBABLY MADE IT HARDER FOR THE MUJAHIDEEN TO OPERATE IN THE REGION. (BRIEF)

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UNANIMOUS IN THE VIEW THAT THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS HAVE NOW REOCCUPIED MOST OF THE REGION AND THAT THE MOLESYAL (DISTRICT GOVERNOR), ALTHOUGH USUALLY PHYSICALLY PRESENT IN THE TOWN OF PAGHMAN, IS UNABLE TO EXERT ANY AUTHORITY WHATSOEVER IN THE DISTRICT. AN EXCELLENT SOURCE ALSO BELIEVES THAT THE HUAHIDEEN HAVE EVEN ESTABLISHED SEVERAL CHECKPOINTS ON THE ROAD LEADING TO PAGHMAN FROM THE CAPITAL. IN SHORT, THE SOVIETS AND THEIR AFGHAN AGENTS HAVE WON AT BEST A PYRRHIC VICTORY, HARDLY WORTH THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT AND SOVIET LIVES, THE ALIENATION OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION, AND THE DISRUPTION OF THE MILITARY EDUCATION ESTABLISHMENT THAT IT SEEMS TO HAVE COST. (BRIEF)

RELUCTANT WARRIORS

10. (C) THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS REPORTS THAT THE DRA REGIME IS SEARCHING DESPERATELY FOR MEN TO SERVE IN THE ARMY AND TO PATROL THE STREETS OF KABUL AT NIGHT. HIGH PARTY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE NOT BEEN EXEMPTED FROM SUCH CALLS TO THE COLORS; THE HEAD OF A KEY AFGHAN INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTION RECEIVED SUCH A SUMMONS EARLIER THIS MONTH. LIKE THEIR COMPATRIOTS LIVING IN AFGHANISTAN, STUDENTS RETURNING FROM THE SOVIET UNION FOR THE SUMMER

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HOLIDAYS HAVE ALSO BEEN ASKED TO SERVE. SOME WHO CLAIMED THAT THEY COULD NOT RETURN TO THEIR HOME AREAS BECAUSE OF THE INSURGENCY AND THEREFORE WANTED TO GO BACK TO THE USSR HAVE BEEN TOLD BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT THEIR PASSPORTS HAVE BEEN "BLOCKED" PENDING RECEIPT OF NEW INSTRUCTIONS. STUDENTS AND OFFICIALS ALIKE HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN RESISTING THE PRESSURE TO DO SECURITY DUTY. (BRIEF)

KABUL SECURITY SITUATION

11. (C) THE PARLOUS STATE OF KABUL'S SECURITY MAKES IT EASY TO UNDERSTAND THE RELUCTANCE OF AFGHAN CIVILIANS TO BECOME INVOLVED IN STREET PATROLLING. BY DAY THE CITY IS MUCH AS IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN. TRUCKS, CARS, BUSES, ANIMALS AND LARGE CROWDS OF NORMAL-LOOKING AFGHANS APPEAR TO BE GOING ABOUT THEIR DAILY BUSINESS JUST AS THEY HAVE ALWAYS DONE. AND NO ONE PAYS MUCH HEED TO THE OCCASIONAL RUMBLES OF GUNFIRE WHICH TELL OF THE WAR NEARBY. AT NIGHT, HOWEVER, THE SITUATION CHANGES, WITH THE POORER SECTIONS OF THE CITY SETTLING IN TO WITNESS, OR TO TRY TO IGNORE, THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MUJAHIDEEN. ABDUCTIONS AND MURDERS OF SUSPECTED PARTY MEMBERS ARE REGULAR AND FREQUENT OCCURRENCES, AND THE SOUND OF GUNFIRE TELLS OF ATTACKS ON GOVERNMENT INSTALLATIONS AND PITCHED BATTLES IN THE STREETS. THE MOST SPECTACULAR FIRE FIGHT IN THE PAST WEEK TOOK PLACE THE NIGHTS OF JULY 21 THROUGH 23 WHEN THE HISTORIC BALA HISSAR FORTRESS IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE CITY CAME UNDER PERIODIC MUJAHID ATTACK. THE MUJAHIDEEN USED ROCKET ROUNDS AGAINST THE FORTRESS. CONFIDENTIAL
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WHICH FOR A TIME HOUSED THE DOOMED 19TH CENTURY BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE; AND SUCCEEDED IN HOLDING MOST PART OF ITS MAIN ENTRANCE GATE BEFORE WITHDRAWING ON JULY 21 DRIVEN OFF. WE HAVE CONFIRMED REPORTS OF MUJAHID PARTY OFFICIALS AND SECURITY POLICE BEING KILLED DURING THE WEEK, AND A PRO-REGIME RELIGIOUS LEADER'S MURDER WAS ANNOUNCED IN THE OFFICIAL MEDIA. (BRIEF)

12. (C) THE STATE OF THE CITY'S SECURITY HAS BEEN AFFECTED BY THE FOLLOWING EVENTS. ON JULY 21, 1980, THE MUJAHID PARTY BY WESTERN DIPLOMATS. ON THE EVENING OF JULY 21, 1980, A

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DIPLOMAT WAS STOPPED AT GUNPOINT BY SOLDIERS AS HE TRIED TO ENTER HIS EMBASSY AFTER GUARDS HAD SHUT OFF THE COMPOUND SECURITY LIGHTS IN ANTICIPATION OF MUJAHID ATTACK. ALSO, LATE IN THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 26, TWO RIVAL COMMUNIST MILITANTS EXCHANGED GUNSHOTS IN FRONT OF THE CHARGE'S RESIDENCE, AND INHABITANTS OF THE HOUSES IN THE SURROUNDING BLOCK GRABBED THEIR FIREARMS AND RUSHED TO THEIR ROOFS READY TO DEFEND HOME AND HEARTH AGAINST ALL COMERS. ALTHOUGH BOTH INCIDENTS ENDED WITHOUT LOSS OF LIFE (THE MARKSMANSHIP OF THE MILITANTS WAS POOR), THEY SHOW THAT THE CITY'S VZNEER OF CALM IS VERY THIN. (BRIEF)

THE COUNTRYSIDE

13. (C) BY ALL ACCOUNTS, PARWAN PROVINCE IMMEDIATELY TO THE NORTH OF KABUL CONTINUES TO BE A MUJAHIDEEN PRESERVE. MOST OF OUR SOURCES BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS PHYSICALLY PRESENT ONLY IN THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF CHARIKAR AND THAT THE DISTRICT GOVERNORS HAVE FLED THE TOWNS OF KOHISTAN, KAPISSA, JALUL-ES-SERAJ AND GULBAHAR. A PDPA PARTY MEMBER TOLD AN EXCELLENT SOURCE THAT THE MUJAHIDEEN ARE COMPLETELY IN CONTROL OF GULBAHAR, AND THE TEXTILE FACTORY THERE IS EITHER NOT FUNCTIONING AT ALL OR RUNNING AT A REDUCED RATE. (BRIEF)
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INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 AID-07 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-18 CIAE-00
EA-10 OODE-00 H-01 IO-15 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00
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AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USICA WASHDC
USMISSION USHATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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14. (C) SIMILARLY, GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF THE PROVINCES TO THE EAST AND SOUTH OF THE CAPITAL IS LIMITED. IN NARADAK, THE GOVERNOR GOES TO HIS MAIDANSHAR OFFICE 30 KILOMETERS FROM KABUL ONLY BY DAY AND RETURNS HERE AT NIGHT. HE IS REPORTED TO MAINTAIN AN UNEASY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MUJAHIDEEN BY SUPPLYING THEM WITH NEEDED PROVISIONS FROM GOVERNMENT STORES. BEYOND MAIDANSHAR, THERE IS NO GOVERNMENT PRESENCE. IN GHAZNI TO THE SOUTH, THE GOVERNMENT IS CONTINUOUSLY PRESENT IN THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL BUT THE NEIGHBORING DISTRICTS ARE SAID TO BE HEAVILY INFILTRATED BY MUJAHIDEEN. (BRIEF)

INTRA-MUJAHIDEEN CONFLICT

15. (C) ONE LIKELY SOURCE OF CONFLICT TO THE DRA REGIME DURING THE WEEK WAS THE REPORT THAT MUJAHIDEEN REPRESENTING THE MEAB-E-ISLAMI AND THE HARAKAT-E-ENGELABI IN PARVAK WERE AT WAR WITH EACH OTHER. THERE HAVE BEEN PERIODIC REPORTS THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS WERE POOR AND THAT THEY WERE AS INTERESTED IN FIGHTING EACH OTHER FOR CONTROL OF THE REGION AS IN FIGHTING GOVERNMENT AND SOVIET FORCES. NOW, HOWEVER, IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED THAT THE TWO GROUPS HAVE COME INTO OPEN CONFLICT.

DRA REGIME FOREIGN RELATIONS

16. (U) DELEGATIONS FROM LEBANON AND THE SOV VISITED KABUL DURING THE WEEK, AND ON JULY 20 A TEAM FROM THE AUSTRALIAN "60 MINUTES" TV PROGRAM ARRIVED HERE FOR A 7 TO 10 DAY STAY. THE LEBANESE CAME FROM THE

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MURABITION GROUP WHICH THE AFGHAN PRESS HAS CALLED AN "HASSERITE," AND CAME TO THE CITY OF 11:00:00. ISRAHIM AL-QADIRI KILAT. THE CELEBRATION WAS AT A RANGE OF HIGH PARTY OFFICIALS. THE CELEBRATION TO BE HERE WAS NOT ANNOUNCED. 10:00:00

17. (C) THE EAST AFGHAN SOVIET WAS WITH THE 11:00:00 UNITY PARTY AND WAS CALLED BY THE PRESS 11:00:00. IN THE LOCAL PRESS AS THE 11:00:00 OF THE 11:00:00 RELATIONS DEPARTMENT AND A 11:00:00 OF 11:00:00 COMMITTEE. 11:00:00

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MINISTER KESHTMAND AND VARIOUS PARTY OFFICIALS AND IN-
AUGURATED A PRINTING PLANT IN KABUL FINANCED BY THE GDR
AT A COST OF SOME \$4 MILLION. THE EAST GERMANS, ACCORDING
TO A KNOWLEDGEABLE DIPLOMATIC SOURCE, HAVE BEEN
TEACHING AFGHAN TECHNICIANS TAKEN TO LEIPZIG HOW TO RUN THE
PRESS AND HAVE ALSO RUN COURSES FOR EDITORS AND MANAGERS
IN HOW TO USE THE EQUIPMENT TO FURTHER REGIME AND PARTY
OBJECTIVES. THE SAME SOURCE BELIEVES ZEMER TO BE A
RELATIVELY MINOR PARTY FUNCTIONARY WHO AT LEAST UNTIL
RECENTLY WAS NEITHER A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE
NOR HEAD OF THE PARTY'S FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT. (BRIEF)

18. (LOU) THE VISIT OF THE AUSTRALIAN TV NEWS TEAM IS
BEING CLOSELY MANAGED BY THE DRA REGIME. FOR THEIR PART,
THE AUSTRALIANS SEEM INCLINED TO THE VIEW THAT THE WEST
IS DOING BUSINESS AS USUAL WITH THE DRA (SEPTTEL NOTAL).
(BRIEF)

19. (U) FINALLY, ON JULY 28 DRA REGIME PRESIDENT BABRAK
KARMAI RETURNED TO KABUL FROM MOSCOW. BABRAK HAD BEEN
OUT OF THE COUNTRY SINCE JUNE 21 ON VISITS TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA
AND THE USSR. (BRIEF) HILLS

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